

**MINUTES OF  
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 29, 2003**

**Members Present:** Matthew Smith, Chairman; Per Bang-Jensen, Vice-Chairman; J. David Cubbage; Laurence Mason; Sharon Grove McCamy; Sam Poles; Larry L. Weeks and Liz Cook.

**Members Absent:** Ann McCarty

**Resignations:** R. E. Moore

**Guests Present:** Edgar Messick; James Sizemore; Joe Romano; Brenda McNeal; Laurie Ward; Deborah Doolan; Bill Santman; Judy Santman; Kay Hayes; James Romano and Jerry Longerbeam.

**Staff Present:** Fran Williams

**1. Approval of December 3, 2002 Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Per Bang-Jensen stated that he would like to amend Item #6 so that it reads as follows: ".....Per Bang-Jensen stated that VDOT ~~cannot~~ may not be able to put up a soundwall/berm ~~on existing roads at that location~~ unless it is shown that the weigh station generates additional noise. Committee members discussed the possibility of lowering the speed limit from the Community College to Route 605 as another way of reducing the noise levels as well as a recent request to have the speed limit lowered on all Fauquier County roads. Matthew Smith reiterated that he is against having the speed limit lowered throughout the County."

On motion made by Larry Weeks and seconded by Sam Poles, it was moved to approve the December 3, 2002 Committee meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. Consider Access Issues at the Intersection of Routes 610 and 28 in the Midland Service District – Ross Industries. (Item #10)**

Edgar Messick stated that there is a genuine safety concern regarding the intersection of Midland Road (Route 610) and Catlett Road (Route 28) in Midland. Mr. Messick stated that a turn lane is needed because the road was designed without clearance, which forces large trucks travelling north to cross into the southbound lane when making a turn. Mr. Messick noted that in many instances cars behind vehicles making turns are passing on the right shoulder, which is not only dangerous, but also illegal. Mr. Messick, also speaking on behalf of Albert Bender, a milk truck driver who travels this road seven nights per week, stated that the danger is even greater at night when it is hard to see where the turn is. Mr. Messick suggested that reflectors be installed so that the turn will be more visible at night.

Matthew Smith stated that he recently made a site visit to this location. Mr. Smith stated that the guardrail is very close to Routes 610 and 28. Mr. Smith further stated that there is a lot of truck traffic in this area. Tractor-trailers coming out of Route 610 must pull into the northbound lane in order to get into the southbound lane, causing a safety concern. Mr. Smith noted that employees of Ross Industries and individuals going to the Midland Post Office use this intersection every day.

Jerry Longerbeam reiterated Mr. Messick and Mr. Smith's concerns about this intersection. Mr. Longerbeam stated that reflective paint is needed at this intersection as well as a turn-lane. Mr. Longerbeam expressed concern about motorists coming up on a car turning left and then passing on the right as well as the congestion when Ross Industries closes causing traffic to back up to the Post Office with a 15 to 20 minute wait to get onto Route 28.

Dave Cabbage stated that since this intersection was originally designed with a future four-lane road in mind, a left turn lane was not included. ***However, Mr. Cabbage stated that he will get an estimate on the guardrail and turn lane at this location as well as having reflectors installed. Mr. Cabbage will report back to the Committee at next month's meeting.***

3. ***Consider a Request For Traffic Calming Measures for the Emerald Oaks Subdivision Including Those Noted Below – Brenda McNeal. (Item #13)***
  - A. ***Three-Way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Auburn Mill Road and Wemberly Drive.***
  - B. ***Removal of Double Yellow Pavement Markings.***
  - C. ***Watch for Children Signs.***
  - D. ***Additional \$200.00 Speeding Fine Signs.***

Brenda McNeal stated that residents have complained to the Sheriff's Department about speeding problems within the Emerald Oaks Subdivision. Ms. McNeal expressed concern because there are a number of children in this community, but virtually none of the motorists respect the 25 mph speed limit. Ms. McNeal stated there is a full mile without a stop sign, making this straight stretch of road look like a freeway, with many motorists traveling at least 60 mph.

Larry Weeks stated that he has been in contact with the Sheriff's Department about this situation. The Sheriff's Department set up radar in this area last month and issued 30 to 35 citations. Mr. Weeks stated that he would be willing to recommend the requested traffic calming measures to the Board, with the exception of the removal of the pavement markings. Dave Cabbage also expressed concern about removing the yellow pavement markings.

Sam Poles reminded those present that the additional \$200.00 fine is optional and not always imposed.

On motion made by Larry Weeks and seconded by Sharon McCamy, it was moved to forward a recommendation of approval to the Board of Supervisors for traffic calming measures in the Emerald Oaks Subdivision as requested with the exception of removing the double yellow pavement markings. The motion also included the recommendation to have VDOT formally study the request to remove the double yellow pavement markings. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ***Consider Recommending Stribling Drive for a Rural Addition – Joseph Romano. (Item #14)***

Joe Romano stated that he is requesting the rural addition for safety reasons such as: 1) Access by school buses during periods of inclement weather; 2) Access by fire and rescue personnel during periods of inclement weather; and 3) Egress during periods of inclement weather by a public safety employee who resides along Stribling Drive. Mr. Romano presented the Committee with a handout showing the location of Stribling Drive. Mr. Romano stated that the road, which is in southern Fauquier County off Route 17, south of Morrisville, is approximately 1,000 feet in length and is contained in two (2) parcels. The first section begins at U.S. Route 17 and continues west for approximately 561 feet. The second section is contiguous to the first and continues west for approximately 439 feet terminating in a turnaround radius. Both parcels have adequate right-of-way. The owner of each parcel proposes to dedicate a 50 foot right-of-way, which encompasses the existing hard surface road, Stribling Drive. The current condition of Stribling Drive is excellent and with the dedication of both parcels the public safety issues can be mitigated at little or no cost to either Fauquier County or VDOT.

Sharon McCamy stated that the angle to Route 17 is very steep and the visibility is not very good. Jim Romano stated that the State Police use the deceleration lane to pull over large trucks, which cuts back on visibility. Sam Poles asked Jim Romano "If the road is accepted into the Rural Addition program and someone still slides off the road will the County be blamed?" Mr. Romano responded "No". Per Bang-Jensen asked if there is an existing road maintenance agreement or if the residents could each chip in \$10 to have the road plowed. Jim Romano stated that there is currently no road maintenance agreement or homeowner's association.

James Sizemore stated that he is requesting that Arlene Court also be included in this request. However, he will withdraw his request if this will have a negative effect on Stribling Drive's acceptance into the Rural Addition program.

Larry Weeks questioned the reasoning for wanting Stribling Drive accepted into the Rural Addition program. Mr. Weeks stated that if development is not the reason for making the request, perhaps deed-restricting the acreage would remove that suspicion. Mr. Weeks further stated that he would like to know what the difference in housing development would be, if any, if the Committee moved in this direction.

David Cubbage stated that he would be curious to see when the last subdivision was done along this road. Mr. Cubbage stated that if divisions were done after 1985, a maintenance bond must be posted based on length. Both Mr. Joe Romano and Mr. James Romano stated they would agree to bear the cost for Stribling Drive, if necessary.

***Liz Cook will research the subdivision potential of these lots, when the last subdivision was done as well as whether these streets meet the County's minimum grade requirements. Arlene Court will be considered in conjunction with Stribling Drive.***

**5. Consider Reducing the Speed Limit on Courtney's Corner Road. (Item #2)**

Sharon McCamy expressed concern about safety issues involving Courtney's Corner Road (Route 634) because of the curves and a very bad accident which occurred some time ago. Dave Cubbage stated that VDOT has reviewed the posted speed on this road and a recommendation was submitted to their Central Office for approval to reduce the speed limit to 45 mph. Richmond has approved the request; speed limit signs have been ordered and a work order has been issued to their sign contractor. Mr. Cubbage anticipates the signs will be installed in the near future.

**6. Receive an Update on a Request for a Traffic Signal at Elk Run Road and Route 17. (Item #3)**

Sharon McCamy stated there have been a number of accidents at the intersection of Elk Run Road (Route 806) and Route 17, with a fatality several years ago. Ms. McCamy stated that the Sheriff has asked for a stop light at this location to slow down the speeding on Route 17.

Dave Cubbage stated that this is essentially a rural area and having a traffic signal at this location could actually increase the accident rate. Mr. Cubbage stated that a concern is that at night through travelers are programmed to continue going and when a motorist comes from a side road, with the green light, he is struck. ***Mr. Cubbage stated that VDOT could start with a flashing beacon and if improvement is seen during a study period, it could be left in place or, if necessary, this would make it easier if VDOT determines that full signalization is needed.***

***On motion made by Sharon McCamy and seconded by Larry Weeks it was moved to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to request that VDOT install a flashing beacon at the intersection of Elk Run Road (Route 806) and Route 17. The motion carried unanimously.***

**7. Consider Traffic Calming Measures/Signage for Union Church Road and Sumerduck Road. (Item #4)**

Sharon McCamy stated that there are a couple of sharp curves on these roads and there have been some rollover accidents. Ms. McCamy informed the Committee that one of the landowners has offered to donate land if VDOT wants to straighten the curve. ***Dave Cubbage stated that a traffic study was done last July, but VDOT has had a number of personnel changes and the work order may not have been processed. Mr. Cubbage will check on the status of this and update the Committee at its next meeting.***

**8. Receive an Update on Drainage Issues on Shipps Store Road and Route 17. (Item #5)**

Sharon McCamy stated that there is standing water along Shipps Store Road (Route 637) near its intersection with Route 17 and several people have complained about hydroplaning. Ms. McCamy stated that the ditches may need to be cleaned. Dave Cubbage stated that the Residency Maintenance Operation Manager and the Bealeton area Superintendent have visited the site. At the time of the visit there was no standing water as indicated in Ms. McCamy's memo of December 13, 2002. VDOT will continue to monitor the area after heavy rains to determine if water is standing. If a drainage obstruction or corrective measures are identified VDOT will have maintenance crews perform work to alleviate the situation.

**9. Receive an Update on Traffic Safety and Speeding Concerns at Independence Avenue and Route 17. (Item #6)**

Dave Cubbage stated that VDOT as well as independent traffic consultants associated with land development projects in the area have studied the level of service of this intersection. While VDOT acknowledges the through volumes on Route 17 are contributing to a lowering in the level of service for Independence Avenue, it was not determined that the existing condition warrants full signalization. In the event full signalization is warranted, additional physical construction to allow all turning movements will be done. This would involve the removal of curbing, increasing turning radiuses in certain directions and possibly extending the turn lane.

***Matthew Smith asked if the flashing light on Route 17 near Liberty High School had been moved back. A Resolution was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors regarding this. Mr. Cubbage stated that he will look into this matter.***

Mr. Cubbage further stated that he is suggesting that Independence Avenue be put in as an "Institutional Number" at the 9000 level. This would set up and distribute the money over two roads instead of one. This is a limited category, which would only serve the schools. If, at any point in the future, development occurs along this road it could no longer be an institutional road. ***Sharon McCamy stated that she would like to discuss this with School Board members to get their feel on this subject before moving ahead with this. Ms. McCamy and Mr. Cubbage will update the Committee with their findings.***

**10. Consider a Request for Traffic Calming Measures for the Edgehill Subdivision Including Those Noted Below – Mark Nary. (Item #8)**

- A. Speed Bumps for Ridgedale Drive and Edgehill Drive.***
- B. Reducing the Speed Limit to 15 Miles Per Hour.***

Mark Nary was not present at the meeting. Sharon McCamy noted that a Resolution had been done for a "Watch For Children" sign in the Edgehill Subdivision. Dave Cubbage stated that VDOT does not usually install speed bumps.

**11. *Receive an Update on the Status of the Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Route 17 and Village Center Drive in the Bealeton Service District. (Item #7)***

Dave Cubbage stated that the work order for a flashing beacon has been executed and it should be going to the contractor within the next month.

**12. *Consider the Poplar Grove Noise Abatement Issue – Jon Whichard. (Item #9)***

Jon Whichard was not present at the meeting. Per Bang-Jensen stated that the initial request was to have a sound study done. The decision was made to have a corridor study done, which dramatically raised the cost. The residents of Poplar Grove would like to have the problem solved as soon as possible. Dave Cubbage stated that Lloyd Arnold in VDOT's Richmond office is handling the contract to get some baseline data. Mr. Bang-Jensen asked about the timing and Mr. Cubbage stated that he will have further information by the time of the Citizen's Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cubbage handed out three choices for possible sign language, which would alert truckers of the restriction on jake-brakes. Mr. Cubbage stated that VDOT would like to have a consensus of one choice, which will then be submitted to the Attorney General's office for approval. Once VDOT receives approval, the signs will be installed. ***Liz Cook will send the choices to the County Attorney and Sheriff Joe Higgs for their input. The Committee will make a recommendation at its next meeting. Sharon McCamy will scan the sign and e-mail it to the Board of Supervisors in order to alert them this matter is being considered.***

**13. *Consider Deceleration Lanes Along Route 28 for Trinity Plastics in the Remington Service District. (Item #11)***

***This will be a future agenda item.***

**14. *Consider a Petition to Lower the Speed Limit on Springs Road Between Route 29 in Warrenton to Fauquier Springs/Rappahannock River. (Item #12)***

Larry Weeks stated that he has spoken with Sheriff Joe Higgs, who indicated the speed limit on this road is already 45 mph. Mr. Weeks stated that there may be an enforcement issue. ***Liz Cook will investigate this matter and update the Committee at its next meeting.***

**15. *Consider Recommending Muster Lane to be a "Paved in Place" Project on the Six-Year Plan – Douglas Danko.***

Douglas Danko was not present at the meeting. Larry Weeks stated that he has responded to Mr. Danko's request, advising him of the need to have at least 50% of the landowners sign a petition to indicate their support for a "Pave-in-Place". Mr. Weeks stated that he has not received the petition. This matter will be put on hold until the petition is received. ***Dave Cubbage will provide the Committee with the State code regarding the Rustic Road designation.***

**16. *Receive an Update Regarding Route 29 Crossovers and Discuss Crossover Policy.***

Dave Cubbage stated that the crossover issue is on hold, but VDOT has recommended putting up "No U-Turn" signs. ***On motion made by Matthew Smith and seconded by Larry Weeks, it was moved to accept VDOT's recommendation to put up "No U-Turn" signs between Opal and Lord Fairfax Community College as proposed. (No Resolution needed from Board of Supervisors.) Sharon McCamy will notify Ray Graham since this is his magisterial district.***

**17. *Discuss Reducing the Base Speed Limit on Fauquier County Roads from 55 Miles Per Hour to 45 Miles Per Hour.***

Sharon McCamy stated that she would like to withdraw her request to reduce the speed limit on all Fauquier County roads from 55 mph to 45 mph. Matthew Smith stated that the Committee would look at roads on an as-needed basis when citizens raise concerns.

**18. *Other Items.***

Sharon McCamy stated that another County resident died in a car accident on Route 28 recently. The accident occurred in the Nokesville area. Ms. McCamy would like to do a traffic analysis.

Sam Poles asked if the fencing, which was damaged when work was done on Lake Daniel Road, had been replaced. Dave Cubbage stated that he believes VDOT is waiting for the contractor to install the fencing.

Liz Cook stated that she will be bringing some transportation issues regarding the Subdivision Ordinance to the Committee before they are taken to the Planning Commission.

Matthew Smith welcomed Sharon McCamy to the Committee.

***Matthew Smith suggested doing a Certificate of Appreciation for Harry Atherton and Bob Moore.***

Matthew Smith stated that the orange cones at the Weigh Station are unsightly. Mr. Smith further stated that the appearance of the reflectors on Meetze Road just before Falmouth Street needs to be improved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.